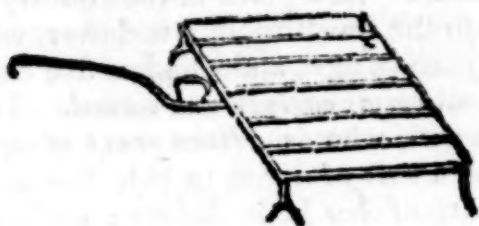


COBBETT'S WEEKLY POLITICAL REGISTER.

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No. VI.

TO CHARLES MARSHALL,

LABOURER,

*Normandy Tithing, Parish of Ash,
Farnham, Surrey.*

*Castle Comfort, Abington, Co. Limerick,
25. Oct., 1834.*

MARSHALL,

SINCE I wrote to you from CORK, I have been over a hundred more miles of this country. There is no *sandy* ground here, and no *chalk*. It is all *loam* and *rocky stone*, and great part of this stone is *lime-stone* of a very dark blue colour. In some parts the stone is near to the top of the ground, and in others, quite at the top, so that the ground cannot be ploughed. But, even here, the grass is very fine between the rocky stones, and as good for sheep as our *downs* are. There are few *hills*, compared with our part of England: some about as high as those that rise up in our neighbourhood; and these they call "*mountains*"; but, the greater part of those that I have seen are covered with *grass* to their very tops; and have hundreds of cattle fattening on their sides, and the very tips.

I came, yesterday, along a country about ten English miles long, all the richest land that can possibly be. On the two sides of this road, and on those of its continuation for ten miles farther, there are about a hundred and fifty thousand acres of land; a bed of rich loam

from 6 to 8 feet deep, and without a single *water-furrow* being wanted in the whole of it; and yet, on the whole of this tract, which is worth more than all the land in the county of Surrey, there is not one field of turnips, mangel-wurzel, or cabbages. The land is not tilled a tenth part so well as it might be. If we had it, it would be all a garden; and it is not the fault of the farmers and working people; but, of the LAWS, which suffer the landlords to take away and send into other countries all the meat and the corn, and compel the miserable farmers and working people to live on potatoes. But, all this matter I shall make clear to you all, in a BOOK that I shall make when I get back to NORMANDY, or before.

In my last letter I told you about the poor souls on Lord MIDDLETON's estate; and, I shall tell you, that his poor creatures are looked upon as being *the best treated* of any in the country. Well, then, MARSHALL, if that be the *best of it*, you may guess *what is the worst!* No; you cannot guess: and God forbid, that the Scotch or the English place-hunting and tax-eating miscreants should ever be able to persuade the Parliament to *attempt* to reduce the people of Surrey to such a state as to enable them to *guess* at horrors such as I have beheld since I last wrote to you.

I have been TO SEE the people on the estates of several great swaggering fellows, who are called "*noblemen*," and who live in England and spend there, or in France or in Italy, the money that the Irish corn and meat sell for. I have seen a few hundreds of Irish FARMERS, now, Marshall, and have taken down their names, and a correct account of all about them. Marshall, you call yourself a *poor man*; and, with 8 children, only one of whom can constantly earn his living, you cannot be otherwise; but, I solemnly declare to you, that I have seen no Irish farmer, who lives in a manor



thing like equal to the manner in which you live. At the house of one (who pays as much rent as Farmer HORNE) there was a boy six years old (stabbling about on the dirt-floor, in the urine of the pig) naked all but a rag round his middle, and we judged, some of us, that this rag might weigh 4 ounces, and, others, that it might weigh 6 ounces. This was a "*farmer's son*"! But, this farmer *pays no poor-rates* as Farmer HORNE does! And this farmer pays a working man only 6d. a day, while Farmer HORNE is obliged to pay him 2s. Ah! but the LANDLORD here takes away from the Irish farmer rent, poor-rates, wages, and all, and thus reduces the whole to beggary. And this, Marshall, is precisely what a FAMOUS SCOTCH VAGABOND, of whom I will tell you more another time, is endeavouring to cause to take place in England. Look sharp, then, and especially the FARMERS look sharp; be prepared to use, and, in good earnest, all the lawful means in your power, to uphold the laws of England, those just laws, which were obtained by the good sense and resolution and best blood of our virtuous and wise and just and resolute forefathers.

In one street in the outskirts of the city of Limerick, (which is made a *fine city* by the trade of sending away meat and butter and corn out of Ireland), I saw more misery than any man could have believed existed in the whole world. Men sleeping in the same wisp of dirty straw, or weeds, with their mothers, sisters, and aunts; and compelled to do this, or perish: two or three families in one room, that is to say, a miserable hole 10 feet by 8 or 9; and husbands, wives, sons, daughters, all huddled together, paying 6d. or 8d. or 10d. a week for the room; and the rent paid to a "*nobleman*" in England! Here I saw one woman with a baby in her arms, both nearly naked. The poor mother's body was naked from the middle of her thighs downwards; and to hide her *bosom*, she caught up a dirty piece of old sack; she hung down her face (naturally very pretty); when she lifted it up, the tears were streaming down her cheeks. Her

husband, who had just got better after illness, was out at work. She had two other children quite naked, and covered up in some dirty hay, in one corner of the room! At a place in the country, I went to the dwelling of a widower, who is 60 years of age, and who has five children, all *very nearly stark naked*. The eldest girl, who is *fifteen years of age*, had on a sort of apron to hide the middle part of her body before; and that was all she had. She hid herself, as well as she could, behind, or at the end of, an old broken cupboard; and she held up her two arms and hands to hide her breasts! This man *pays 30s. rent* for an acre of the poorest land! And, am I to live to see the working people of GUILDFORD and GODALMING, and of my native town of FARNHAM, *brought to this state*? Yet, MARSHALL, mind what I say: to this state they will be brought, if they do not do every thing that the law allows them to do to prevent it. Mind, Marshall, I have *witnesses* to the truth of all the horrid facts that I state; and, I am ready to bring *proof* of these facts before a committee of the House of Commons. I have the *names* of scores of FARMERS, and an account of thousands, who *never taste* either *meat* or *bread*! Yet, they *do not pay poor-rates*!

Marshall, you know that there is a great swaggering fellow, in Sussex, that they call "*the EARL OF EGREMONT*." I will give you an account of his "*FARMERS*" another time. Tell Farmer HORNE, that I say, he ought to read these letters to his congregation, and to read to them those parts of the BIBLE which relate to the duties of the rich towards the poor. Be sure to get some of them to PURBRIGHT, and to all the parishes round about. Let them all see what the Scotch and English tax-eating vagabonds wish to persuade the Parliament to bring them to; and let them all be ready to come to a county meeting when I get back. Mr. DEAN will read to you the account of the great kindness of the Irish people to me. "*God bless you and your countrymen!*" I have heard from hundreds of thousands of voices, since I came to Ireland;

and, if we do not do our best, in every legal way that we can act, to better the lot of this good and kind and most cruelly suffering people, we shall deserve to be reduced to their horrible state; our hard-heartedness, or cowardice, will merit sufferings even greater than those which they have to endure.

I begin to look towards NORMANDY again. I never see a "farm-house" here, without thinking how happy one of these "farmers" (who pay no *poor-rates*) would be, if he had a sleeping-place as good as that which you and TOM FARR made for our *bull*! You thought, that it would not be "*decent without paving*! I declare to God that I have not seen a foot square of pavement in a farm-house in Ireland; and yet these farmers are not "*oppressed by poor-rates*"! I once thought of bringing SAM RIDDLE with me. I wish I had, and then sent him down to his own home, in Sussex, to tell the farmers there what he had seen. He would have been able to tell them the consequence of getting *relieved* from *poor-rates*; and to relate to them *how* it was, that *poor-rates* prevented the landlords from swallowing up *poor-rates* and wages along with the rents, and of reducing farmers as well as labourers to potatoes and salt.

Hoping that you all keep sober and very obedient to Mr. DEAN, and that you will have every thing in nice order against my return, I remain in excellent health, and with sincere wishes for the health of you all,

Your master and friend,

WM. COBBETT.

P.S. I shall, when I have ended my travels about Ireland, publish a *little book* with the following title:

IRELAND'S WOES;

WARNING TO ENGLISHMEN.

And I will take care that you shall all have it to read, or to be read to you.

BURNING OF THE PARLIAMENT HOUSE!

Castle Comfort, Abington, Co. Limerick,
25. Oct., 1834.

I BEGAN this subject, in a letter from Limerick, in my last *Register*. Want of time *cut me short*; and made me hastily put down only a few of the things done in the place now consumed by fire. I will, therefore, *re-insert* that broken-off article, and will continue it on to the present time, as well as I can, in the ABSENCE OF ALL BOOKS, which might serve to refresh my memory.

City of Limerick, 20. Oct. 1834.

Here am I, having been last evening received with acclamations of joy, by thirty thousand men, preceding my carriage with not less than thirty banners, and with my ears still humming with their cheers, when, in comes the London post, this morning, bringing, in my insipid old friend and neighbour, the MORNING HERALD, an account of the BURNING of the Parliament House! As to the CAUSE, whether by fire and brimstone from Heaven, or by the less sublime agency of "SWING," my friend, the Herald, does not tell me; though this is a very *interesting* portion of the event.

At this distance, a good five hundred miles from the scene, all I can do, with regard to recording the facts, is to direct my printer (which I hereby do), not to insert my fifth and last letter to LORD RADNOR about the Poor-law Amendment Bill (which letter I sent him last night); but, to take from the London *daily papers*, all the different accounts, and all *their different sets of wise observations*, relating to this matter. This is all I can do at present in the historical way.

But my friend, the HERALD, has made one observation, upon which, distant as I am, and agitated as the reader will naturally suppose my mind to be, I cannot refrain from offering a remark or two. My insipid friend says, "that the

MOB" (meaning *the people of London*), "when they saw *the progress of the flames*, raised a SAVAGE shout of "EXULTATION." Did they indeed! The *Herald* exclaims, "O, UNREFLECTING people!" Now perhaps the "MOB" exulted because the "MOB" was really a *reflecting* "mob." When even a dog, or a horse, receives any treatment that it does not like, it always shuns *the place* where it got such treatment: shoot at and wound a hare from out of a hedge-row, she will always shun that spot: cut a stick out of a coppice, and beat a boy with it, and he will wish the coppice at the devil: send a man, for writing notorious truth, out of the King's Bench to a jail, and there put him half to death, and he will not cry his eyes out if he happen to hear that court is no more. In short, there is always a connexion in our minds, between sufferings that we undergo and *the place* in which they are inflicted, or in which they originate. And this "*unreflecting mob*" might in this case have reflected, that in the building which they then saw in flames, the following, amongst many other things, took place. They might have reflected, that it was in this House,

That the act was passed for turning the Catholic priests, who shared the tithes with the poor, out of the parishes, and putting Protestant parsons in their place, who gave the poor no share at all of the tithes.

That this was the VERY FIRST ACT that was passed after this building became the Parliament House!

That the all-devouring church of England was BORN in this very House.

That, soon after the people became *compelled to beg* or starve, in this same House an act was passed to put an iron collar on a beggar's neck, and to make him a slave for life.

That, it was in this House, that the aristocracy (who had got the abbey lands and great tithes), solemnly *renounced the damnable*

errors of the Catholic religion, in the reign of Edward the Sixth.

That, it was in this same House, that they solemnly recanted, and received pardon and absolution from the Pope, in the reign of Queen Mary, bargaining to keep the abbey lands and great tithes.

That, it was in this same House, that the aristocracy chopped about again when ELIZABETH came, and again solemnly renounced the damnable idolatry of popery.

That, it was in this same House, that the act was passed for plundering the guilds and fraternities of their prescriptive property.

That, it was in this same House, that all the tyrannical and bloody penal laws were passed against those who faithfully adhered to the religion of our fathers.

That, it was in this same House, that the Riot Act and the Septennial Act were passed.

That, it was in this same House, that the sums were voted for carrying on a war to subjugate the Americans.

That, it was in this same House, that the new treason-laws, new game-laws, new trespass-laws, and new felony-laws were passed.

That it was in this same House that the million and half of money was voted to be given to the parsons of the church of England, over and above their tithes to enormous amount.

That, it was in this same HOUSE, that the Act of William and Mary was passed, providing for the contingent accession of the House of Hanover; that, in that act, which was entitled an Act for Preserving the Religion and Liberties of England, it was provided, that, in case of the accession of the family, no one having a *pension* from the crown, or holding any place of *trust* or *emolument* under it, *civil or military*, should be capable of sitting in the House of Commons.

That, it was in this same HOUSE, that

this part of that act was REPEALED; and that the House of Commons now contains great numbers of *pensioners*, and of persons living on public money, military as well as civil.

That, it was in this same HOUSE, that THIRTY-FOUR MILLIONS of money were voted for *the army alone* in the year of the battle of Waterloo!

That, it was in this same HOUSE, that seven hundred thousand pounds were voted to Wellington.

That, it was in this same HOUSE, that the POWER-OF-IMPRISONMENT-BILL, and the other bills of that sort, were brought in by Sidmouth and Castlereagh, and passed in 1817.

That, it was in this same HOUSE, that CANNING was cheered, when he made a jest of the groans of the aged and innocent Ogden, one of the victims of those bills.

That, it was in this same HOUSE, that it was, in 1819, voted that the House would *not inquire* into the massacre at Manchester.

That, it was in this same HOUSE, that Liverpool, in 1820, brought in the Bill of Pains and Penalties against the Queen of Geo. IV.

That it was, in this same HOUSE, that the members stood up, bare-headed, and with clapping of hands, received Castlereagh, when he returned from Paris after the *death of Marshal Ney*, and the breaking up of the *museums*.

That, it was in this same HOUSE, where CASTLEREAGH brought in, and the House passed, the SIX ACTS, in 1819.

That, it was in this same HOUSE, that were passed the laws for enabling the landowners to SELL wild animals, called GAME, and to enable the justices to TRANSPORT poor men, who should, by night, be found in pursuit of those animals.

That, it was in this same HOUSE, that the Bills establishing the Bourbon-the POLICE, were passed, and that like detected spy POPAY was suf-

fered to go unpunished and his employers unreprieved.

That, it was in this HOUSE, that bo-theration BROUGHAM, in 1820, *defended the employment of spies* by the government.

That, it was in this same HOUSE, where CASTLEREAGH was the *leader*, for many years, up to the 6. of August, 1822; and he CUT HIS OWN THROAT, at North Cray, in Kent, on the 12. of that month, a Kentish coroner's jury pronouncing that he was INSANE, and had been so for *some weeks*; he being also Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and acting as such for the Home and Colonial Departments *at the very time when he cut his throat*.

That, it was in this same HOUSE, that *a million and a half of money* was, in the regency and reign of George IV., voted out of the taxes to be given to the clergy of the church of England, over and above their tithes and other enormous revenues.

That, it was in this same HOUSE, that about *three millions* of the people's money were voted for SECRET SERVICES, in the two last reigns, and in the present reign.

That, it was in this same HOUSE, *more than a hundred millions of money* have been voted, in the two last reigns and in the present reign, to pensioners, sinecurists, grantees, allowance-people, and the like.

That, it was in this same HOUSE, that the reasonable and just proposition, made by me, to cause the great landowners to pay as heavy stamp-duties as the *little ones*, and to cause the *land* to pay as heavy duties as *personal property*, was *rejected*.

That, it was in this same HOUSE, that my motion for a repeal of the MALT-TAX was rejected by the reformed Parliament.

That, it was in this same HOUSE, that the IRISH COERCION BILL was passed, amidst cheers to insult Mr. O'Connell.

That, it was in this same HOUSE, that a petition from the electors of SANDWICH, complaining that Sir Thomas TROUBRIDGE, one of their members, had obtained his commission in the navy by criminal means, was, *while the facts were not denied*, rejected by the "*reformed House of Commons*."

That, it was this same HOUSE, that my resolution against Sir ROBERT PEEL was "*EXPUNGED*" upon a motion, put by Lord ALTHORP WITHOUT NOTICE, and amended by the Speaker without the leave of the House.

That, it was in this same HOUSE, that the sums were voted for the new palaces, and for the famous *gate-way*!

That, it was in this same HOUSE, that were passed the *Cash-Payment-Suspension Act* of 1797; PEEL'S Act, in 1819; the *Small-Note Bill* of 1822; the *Panic Act* of 1826, which, at last, leaves the taxes unredeemed, while the wheat is brought down to forty shillings a quarter.

That, it was in this same HOUSE, that the BANK, the PAPER-MONEY, and the FUNDS were enacted.

That, it was in this same HOUSE, that LOANS were voted, which, at last, have created a debt, the bare yearly interest of which amounts to *thirty millions of sovereigns in gold*!

That, it was in this same HOUSE, that a vote to take off a *part* of the tax on the people's daily drink was *rescinded*.

That, it was in this same HOUSE, that Sturges Bourne's Bills were passed, giving *plurality of votes*, at vestries, to the RICH, and authorizing the employment of HIRED OVERSEERS.

That, it was in this same HOUSE, the Special Commissions of 1830 were approved of.

That, it was in this same HOUSE, that the petitions on behalf of the poor DORSETSHIRE MEN were unattended to.

That, it was in this same HOUSE, that

the "*Poor-law Amendment Bill*," brought in by Lords ALTHORP and BROUGHAM, was passed, in 1834.

That, it was in this same HOUSE, now consumed by FIRE, that the vault (*now let down by fire*) resounded with PRAISES on "*the MAGNANIMOUS Alexander*," when he had *burnt to ashes* a city with three hundred thousand people in it; and, beyond all doubt, with not less than *a thousand women in child-birth*, to say nothing of the sick, the decrepit, the aged, and the infants!

Oh! God of mercy! Might not those, whom the insipid and time-serving wretch of the *Morning Herald* abuses; might not that people of London, whom the base crew of REPORTHERS, reeking with the heat of gin, and always eager to libel their own suffering country; might not the people of London, instead of being "*unreflecting*," have DULY REFLECTED on the hundreds of things, of which I have, from mere memory, mentioned only a *small part*? These things are always present to *my mind*. Why should they not be present to the minds of the people of London?

With regard to *what is to be done* in consequence of this fire; *how* the fire came to take place; what *Mother Jordan's offspring* thought of the ruins and of the ashes, when they "*inspected*" them; as the base *reporters* tell us they did: these, and particularly *the latter*, are matters to be more fully dwelt on, when I possess more authentic information. But, I must say, that those who talk of this matter as of a *mere fire*, do not, may it please their *reporterships*, reflect. It is A GREAT EVENT: come from what CAUSE it might, it is a *great event*. It astounds: it sets *thought* to work in the minds of millions: it awakens *recollections*: it rouses to remarks: it elicits a communication of feelings: it makes the tongue the loud herald of the heart: and it must in the nature of things it IS a great event! say the base, stink-

ing *reporters* what they will, it IS a great event !

I do not care one straw where the Parliament may meet : it may meet in a barn for aught I care. To be sure, it can, if it and our constituents, and the all-ruling governor of the world choose, do as it hitherto has done ; but it cannot do the same things in the SAME PLACE, at any rate. Mr. SPRING RICE may again *lay upon the table* a bill for *altering the stamp-laws*, and never mention the matter again ; but he cannot lay it upon the SAME TABLE ! Another *bill of indemnity for stopping cash-payments* may be brought in ; but it cannot be brought into the SAME PLACE ! Aye, aye ; say the stinking *reporters* (poh !) what they like, it is a great event !

WM. COBBETT.

MR. COBBETT'S

ARRIVAL IN THE CITY OF LIMERICK.

On Sunday, the 19. of October (he having slept at Charleville on Saturday night), the author of the *HISTORY OF THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION*, proceeded, at ten o'clock, with his friend Mr. O'Higgins, in a post-chaise, towards LIMERICK, two gentlemen having come to Charleville just before his setting off, to bring him *an address from the ancient city of KILMALLOCK*, at which place (six miles on from Charleville) he was unable to stop, without breaking his engagement with the gentlemen of Limerick ; but he promised to send from Limerick an answer to their address.

The assemblage was very great at Charleville, and Mr. Cobbett was heartily greeted on his departure. At BRUFF, where he changed horses, the landlord, Mr. FOGARTY, being apprized of his approach, had prepared *four horses* and a carriage, and two postilions, in very handsome dresses, with white hats and gold bands. Here the street was crowded with people, and cheering most cor-

dial : "*Welcome to Ireland ! Welcome to Ireland,*" coming from thousands of voices, at which the object of this hearty welcome seemed, as was natural, very much pleased.

At BALLYBRICHAN, Mr. O'SHAUGHNESSY and his son came out from his mansion, with wine and cakes, of which Mr. Cobbett partook, and he received from that kind and zealous and humane gentleman an account of the wretched state of the poor people on that rich and fertile spot ; who were driven to the necessity of picking up (after the diggers) the scattered potatoes which even the crows had rejected.

About four miles from Limerick, he was met by Mr. BRIDGEMAN, the Rev. Mr. O'CONNOR, and other gentlemen, with an *open carriage*, with four horses, postilions in the best style, and a green flag fastened to the carriage, with the word REPEAL upon it. Proceeding on towards the city, the country people pouring down into the main road from every direction ; by the time that he reached within two miles of the city, the assemblage became immense. Here he was met by the TRADES of the city, with not less than THIRTY SILK BANNERS emblematical of their different callings. Here he was met by Mr. DEVITE, in his carriage, and by several gentlemen in gigs and cars ; and thus, with probably a hundred horsemen, and at least *forty thousand men on foot*, the author of the *PROTESTANT REFORMATION* entered the ancient and famed city of LIMERICK ; hundreds of handkerchiefs waving from the windows and the tops of the houses, and amidst the heart-cheering sounds of "*Welcome to Ireland ! welcome to Ireland !*" issuing from thousands upon thousands of lips. Every human being seemed pleased ; delight seemed to be seated on every countenance ; gratitude for his disinterested and generous exertions for Ireland appeared to be mixed with surprise at the health and strength and *gayety* visible in his person and countenance. It was impossible for him, himself, not to be pleased ; and it is but fair to presume, that he put his best looks on for the occasion ; for he did look as good-humoured

and as gay and as delighted as he could possibly have been on the day of his wedding.

The procession entered the city from the CORK-ROAD, went down William-street, turned into George-street, there stopped, and there the president of the deputation from the trades read AN ADDRESS to Mr. COBBETT, he standing on one of the seats of the carriage, a position which he had occupied during the whole of the procession. In answer to the address, he observed, "that, "under the then circumstances, he "must beg the addressers to have "the goodness to give him till the next "day to answer a document containing "sentiments on subjects so numerous, "and each of them so important; but, "that it required no time for reflection "to enable him to say, that he set a "higher value upon the praise of the "trades of Limerick, than he should "set upon that of all the LORDS and "all the KINGS in the world; and "that, though his business in Ireland "was to be able to lay the condition of "the working people of Ireland before "the English people, and to call on "the latter to stand by the former in "all the lawful means of obtaining "redress, he never could be made to "believe, that, if there were in all Ire- "land only the men who now stood "before him, the people of Ireland "could long remain in a state such as "that of the people on the rich and "fertile lands over which he had passed "that day; that he had come across "a thousand square miles of land more "fertile than any spot in the whole "world of similar extent; and that he "never could be made to believe, that "that spot could, for any length of "time, be made to contain, as it now "does, the most destitute and wretched "people upon the face of the earth."

By this time the people had taken the horses from the carriage, which they then drew down through Patrick-street, Rutland-street, Bank-place, Charlotte's-quay, Broad-street, John-street, the Square, Cornwallis-street, and to Quinlivan's-hotel, in William-street, whence Mr. Cobbett shortly ad-

ressed the people and returned them thanks for their generous conduct towards him.

(From the Limerick Star).

MR. COBBETT'S ARRIVAL IN LIMERICK.

At half-past two on Sunday the congregated trades with their colours and their usual dresses, according to appointment marched from Mr. Clanchy's, John-street, to greet and welcome the hon. Member for Oldham; at the same time were seen driving out of town vehicles of every description and innumerable horsemen, notwithstanding the continued wetness of the day, some of whom went over five miles out of town to meet him. On the hon. Gentleman's arrival at the Blackboy turnpike the congregated trades and the thousands that accompanied them hailed him with the most enthusiastic cheers. The procession now marched down the Cork-road, William-street, into George-street, and halted opposite the Mail-coach Hotel to receive the address of the trades. Since the first Clare election, on the arrival of O'Connell in Limerick, we have not seen so vast an assemblage as were now congregated, amounting at least to from forty to fifty thousand souls.

ADDRESS OF THE CITIZENS OF THE CITY OF KILMALLOCK.

TO WM. COBBETT, ESQ., M.P.

The unanimous voice of the ancient city of Kilmallock hails with joy and pleasure the honour of a visit from you. It is an honour and pride to find within its magnificent ruins and dismantled towers so sterling a patriot, and so san-

guine a friend to the welfare of this beautiful but neglected country.

We rejoice to have the benefit of your sound experience and practical knowledge, to bear testimony to the legislature of our wants and miseries, of the present heart-rending sufferings of our poor (who are aged and infirm), without employment for the able-bodied, while thousands of pounds are drained annually out of this parish. We can carry you to the hovels of the poor, where you will see their wretched beds of wet rushes. Revolting to the tender feelings of human nature must it be to see man slumber on such a wretched weed, after his diurnal trip for pitiful alms among the farmers, who are harassed with rack-rents, and to behold these poor people making weekly sales of the proceeds of such charity, to pay lodging money.

We invite you to view our magnificent abbeys and churches, emblematic of the purity and majesty of that religion your *History of the Reformation* so ably defended, and now in the hands of the richest church in the world, from whose superabundant wealth funds could be had sufficient for the support of the aged and the infirm, of hospitals and school-houses; but alas, for Ireland!

We humbly trust the legislature will at length come at the root of the evil; and we again rejoice to behold in you so powerful an auxiliary, to co-operate with Ireland's liberator for the regeneration of this fertile and beautiful country, that thereby capital may be introduced, employment to the working classes, maintenance to the poor, education (untainted with sectarian prejudice), cheap laws, and extensive poor man's magistracy obtained for this neglected country.

We put these forward as main grievances; not forgetting to beseech your co-operation in aiding the legislature to put down all other monopoly.

As we hail your arrival with joy, and as auspicious of better days, so do we sincerely wish you a safe return to your native land, full of hope such an impression will be made on the minds of

Englishmen by you as will be productive of substantial benefits to Ireland.

Michael Murnane, P. P.

Eugene O'Cavenagh,

Daniel O'Brien,

Thomas Walsh,

Timothy Buckley,

John Casey,

Edmond Barrett,

Michael Sheedy,

Timothy Sweeny,

Michael Roche,

Michael Wallace,

Laurence Roche,

Thomas Emmett,

Thomas M'Carthy,

Timothy Pollard,

Thomas Pollard,

Jeremiah Melville,

David Quade,

John Mulqueen,

John Crawford,

Thomas Crawford,

Thomas Quinlan,

John Moylan,

John Prendergast.

Kilmallock, 19. October, 1834.

ANSWER.

TO THE PARISH PRIEST AND OTHER INHABITANTS OF THE CITY OF KILMALLOCK.

Gentlemen—Not being able to stop at your city without breaking my engagement with the people of the city of Limerick, I could not avail myself of your kind invitation; and was obliged to confine myself to a mere passing view of those extensive remains of ancient grandeur, so consonant with the surprising fertility and inexhaustible riches of the surrounding country; so clear an evidence of the political wisdom, as well as of the piety of our ancestors, who, by foundations like these, kept constantly alive "honour to God in the Highest," and on earth peace and good-will to "wards men"; who, in this best of all possible ways, caused the produce of the earth to be enjoyed on the spot, and created a happy yeomanry, held by the ties of gratitude and veneration, in will-

ing and cheerful obedience to their landlords. With this passing glance, and with these melancholy reflections, I was obliged to content myself; those reflections being succeeded, however, by the bitterest execrations, coming from the bottom of my heart, on the memory of the ruthless spoilers, whose ferocious greediness has, at last, instead of that yeomanry by whom the monks were surrounded, placed a swarm of rack-renters, whose only food is an insipid and spiritless root, whose bed is the rejected produce of the hog, whose place of abode is inferior in point of comfort to that of the lowest and filthiest of animals in other countries. and who are liable to be, and frequently are, tossed out of, even of these, to perish with hunger and with cold. If you, gentlemen, and your fathers, had, like us Protestants, ever abused and vilified what are called "*monkish ignorance and superstition*," you might have been said to be the makers of your own miseries; but, having, with a constancy and self-sacrifice, wholly unparalleled in the history of the world, remained, even unto the death, faithful to the religion of your fathers, the magnificent ruins which press the recollection of those sacrifices and of that matchless fidelity, to the mind of the beholder, cannot fail to fill him with indignation against the spoilers, with anxious wishes for your deliverance from your present miseries, and with a resolution to neglect nothing within his power to effect that deliverance.

Gentlemen, your kind and highly valued address, for which I tender you my best thanks, introduces so many topics, and each of so much importance, that it would be impossible for me to treat of them here; without far too great an encroachment on your time; but, gentlemen, I must observe, that, if the unconstitutional doctrine of passive obedience and non-resistance be taught in the schools to which you allude, I abhor those schools from the bottom of my heart. With regard to the matters, relative to which you do me the honour to request my aid in your behalf and in behalf of ill-treated Ireland, I beg you

to be assured, first, that I regard it as my bounden duty to render such aid to the utmost of my power; and second, that having now with my own eyes, had the fact of this ill-treatment, and of all its attendant miseries, confirmed, and my excellent constituents of Oldham, who feel most acutely for all your sufferings, having charged me with the performance of that duty, I should, if I were to neglect it, be amongst the basest and wickedest of all mankind.

WM. COBBETT.

Limerick, 19. October, 1834.

ADDRESS

OF THE

CONGREGATED TRADES OF THE CITY
OF LIMERICK.

TO WM. COBBETT, ESQ., M.P., &c. &c.

Venerated Sir,—In your tour of benevolence and charity, you have received the grateful acknowledgments and ardent welcome of millions of our countrymen, expressed in all the honest sincerity and intensity of their feelings, but there is, there *can* be no place to which you are more endeared, more welcome, than to the city of the violated treaty; the living monument of the faithlessness and perfidy of those, who have misgoverned England as well as Ireland, and the proud record of your own exertions in the cause of civil and religious liberty.

Welcome then, a hundred thousand times welcome, within our ancient walls. Did we not with all the devotion of the heart thus welcome the ardent friend and supporter of "*liberty, literature, and religion*," we would be unworthy of our fathers and unworthy of our country. We have seen within our walls many of the titled aristocratic oppressors of the people, dukes and marquises, and vice-regal governors, but we turned from them with contemptuous indifference, not recognising them as friends to liberty or mankind; but, sir, in your venerable and venerated person, the second *Hampden*, of half a century's service, with what pride and ecstasy do we see

sincere, undaunted, unpurchaseable, and uncompromising attachment to the people's cause evinced; the democratic principle vindicated, and recognised, and the aristocracy of genius, talent, patriotism, and perseverance, waving its triumphant banner, and wielding its glorious sceptre over the impediments and persecutions of titled millions, lordly slaves, and ministerial tyrants. You, sir, have stood forth, single-handed and alone; alternately as the apostle, the champion, and martyred victim of English liberty, when the dungeons of Sidmouth and Castlereagh were yawning for the immurement of every friend of constitutional liberty and reform. For these, sir, did you brave and endure the gloom of the dungeon: the deprivation of your property and temporary expatriation, and proud must be the reflection that the principles you *then* advocated, have at length in a great degree triumphed over *their* enemies and *ours*.

But in thus mainly contributing to achieve the liberty of England, you were not dead to the clanking of the chains of misgovernment and cruelly-treated Ireland. You held up to the justice of the English people the true condition and principles of the Irish people. By your irrefutable and invaluable *History of the Reformation*, you vindicated the religion; the insulted, calumniated, and long-persecuted religion of the Catholic people of Ireland, and by removing the mists of prejudice and bigotry, which designing and disinterested men had thrown over the eyes of England, you proved that the religion of their forefathers and of ours, was not incompatible with the enjoyment of liberty and social order, and of those privileges and benefits which are the inalienable birth-right of every British subject; and thus, sir, did you prepare the mind of England for the unloosing of those chains which had been riveted by the violation of the treaty of Limerick, and made straight the way for granting the long-withheld and ungraciously given boon of Catholic emancipation.

But, while your labours and services have been so great in the advancement of liberty, religion, and morality, (for

who has not read your sermons, and your then almost incredible exposure of the atrocious monster, Jocelyn), you, by your French and English Grammars, and other treatises, have opened a new *era* in the literature of our country. You have raised the English language to a degree of precision, purity, and perfection, in style and composition, which it never knew before. You have taught statesmen the precise terms by which to conduct and regulate their diplomacy, and avoid ambiguity, and literary men the purest mode for the expression of their thoughts and conveyance of instruction. But what avail all these advantages to a people starving in the midst of plenty? and exporting, to gratify the all-grasping rapacity of absentee-landlords, those provisions, the exportation of which, combined with the want of manufactures, causes famine to be a matter of ordinary and periodical recurrence. There is no country in the world more favoured by Providence, and more blighted by man. To an absentee aristocracy, who drain away the resources of the country, to the unjust, obnoxious, and blood-stained impost of tithes, exacted at the point of the bayonet, from a people who receive no value for the exaction, to a total want of manufactures, of which we have been deprived since the fatal period of the Union, to the want of the fostering and paternal care of a domestic legislature, and to rack-rents recklessly assumed from the competition for land, and rigorously exacted, do we attribute all the evils by which this country is and has been afflicted, and all these have had their origin in the misgovernment of England. To prove such assertion, *before the Union* there were in Limerick but *two pawn-offices and forty-three tan-yards*, and *now*, by an inverse ratio, there are at present, but *two tan-yards and forty-three pawn-offices*. We had several other manufactories, which it would be tedious to detail, and all of which have long since vanished. Not a resident nobleman in our city, and *thousands starving on the property of the absentee lord of the soil, who draws an income of 30,000l. per an-*

num from his rack-rent estates. Before the Union, from 1782, the period when Ireland's independence was acknowledged, till the rebellion of 1798, fostered and connived at for the carrying of that baneful, blighting, and desolating measure, never did any country make such rapid strides in private and public prosperity and happiness, notwithstanding six centuries of the most unparalleled and unchristian degradation, oppression, and persecution. We are, therefore, of opinion, that the repeal of that unhallowed measure would shortly restore to us independence, prosperity, happiness, and peace. Had we that measure repealed, and good government administered, then the aged, the sickly, and the infirm alone, would require the aid of a poor-law. Manufactures would again spring up, and Ireland would then, as in 1782, be the strength and not the weakness of England. There is no country in which a legal provision for the poor is more necessary at present than in Ireland, but we much fear the English system of poor-laws would not suit this country from its poverty, rack-rents, and taxation. The only poor-rate that would suit this country would be the appropriation of the surplus revenues and property of the church, a tax levied on absentees and great landed proprietors, and on funded sinecure properties and pensions. You will be told, sir, that since the Union our city has prospered; true, its business has increased, its export trade has enlarged, and wealth has been amassed by private individuals, but our bankrupt calendars and insolvencies will show you how fallacious is this apparent prosperity, and that while individuals are growing opulent, the *people are starving*. By condescending to visit the cells and garrets in the old town, of this assertion you can have the most *convincing and appalling proof and ocular demonstration*; you will see that our poor are not discontented without cause, and that their patience is almost superhuman under such misery and privations. That you may be long spared to the people and the country until you see this con-

summation, the people of the British empire independent, free, and happy, Ireland bound to England in federal and not novercal connexion by the golden link of the crown, and reciprocity of interest and good feeling, is our anxious prayer, and when summoned from this earthly scene, may you enjoy from HIM, in whose hands are the destinies of nations as of individuals, the reward of your patriotic and benevolent actions and intentions.

ANSWER.

TO THE CONGREGATD TRADES OF THE CITY OF LIMERICK.

Gentlemen,—This kind and hearty welcome from men who live by the sweat of their brow, or by their skill in the useful arts and sciences, is, in my eyes, of a million times the value of any praise that could be bestowed on me by an unanimous vote of the congregated nobles (as they call themselves, and as slaves call them) of the whole earth. That which we possess, gentlemen, is the fair fruit of our own labour; that which they possess is, in many cases, the fruit of that which they have received out of taxes imposed on the fruits of our labour. And as to their minds, what do we want more to enable us to judge of them, than this notorious fact, that having, for ages, had at their disposal all the persons and all the immense resources of this kingdom, they have at last involved themselves in debts irredeemable, and in a system of paper-money which, whilst it enables miscreant monopolizers to devour the substance of the people, may, at any moment, leave us in a state of barter and confusion, and which places even their own estates on the cast of a die? What can we want more than this one fact to enable us to judge of their minds?

Gentlemen, amongst the many things which you have been pleased to commend in me, amongst all the things I am proud of, I am most proud of the hatred, the deadly hostility and hatred,

of this aristocracy and of their base coadjutors, the makers of paper-money; and in the words of our best and most virtuous poet I say with delight,

"Yes, I am *proud*; I must be proud, to see,
"Men, not afraid of God, afraid of me."

Afraid of one, who not only literally came from the plough, but whose boast it always has been that he so came; and who, in defiance of power boundless and unsparing, and of a press the most corrupt, at the command of that power, has carried on a contest against both, and is now placed in the highest and most honourable station that man can be placed in, in this kingdom; and I pray you, gentlemen, and particularly the young men amongst you, to be assured, that I owe this most glorious triumph to sobriety and abstinence and early rising more than to any other thing, and to all other things put together.

Gentlemen, of your many and great grievances, of the indescribable sufferings and degradations of your poorer brethren; of the causes of these, and of the remedies which justice and mercy call for, I cannot, in a paper necessarily confined as to limits as this must be, treat in a manner suitable to their vast importance, and commensurate with the respect which I bear towards you. But, you have my solemn assurance, that, having now seen your sufferings with my own eyes, I shall return to England with a resolution to neglect no occasion, to spare no effort, in that capacity especially which my public-spirited constituents have endued me with, to make known the nature and extent of your mighty wrongs and your frightful sufferings, and to cause the latter to cease by a redress of the former.

But, gentlemen, there is one *remedy*, that I must notice; namely, EMIGRATION. This has been resorted to, in order to get rid of the people. Without stopping to inquire into *THE LEGAL RIGHT*, which any landowner can have to send his Majesty's subjects out of the realm, and thus to free them from their allegiance, on pain of death from

hunger or cold; without stopping to inquire into the legality of such an act; and without stopping to remark on the monstrosity of the idea, that there are *too many people* in a fertile country which is not cultivated a fourth part as well as it might be, and, which, nevertheless, sends out of it meat and bread and butter sufficient for the sustenance of a population equal to its own; without stopping thus to inquire and to remark, let me beseech you, to use all your lawful influence to prevent people from emigrating to any country, except the UNITED STATES. I have been amongst the rocks and swamps of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Canada. Going to those countries is going to misery, equal to that which the poor creatures leave behind them, with the addition, every year, of seven months of snow, covering the ground many feet deep; and, I pray you, hear this fact, that, last year, the LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY in Canada passed a law, imposing A TAX UPON ALL EMIGRANTS, for the double purpose of *checking emigration* and of raising money to *keep the Irish emigrants from perishing with hunger and cold!* Bearing this undeniable fact in mind, you will perceive, that it is your duty to state it to the poor deceived people, and to urge them to go to no other country than the *United States*, and in no ship but an *American ship*. Emigration, in any other way, and to any other part, is dooming themselves to death, after even greater sufferings than those which they endure here, many hundreds of them having, according to accounts published in New York, perished, in those countries, from being frost-bitten; or suffered amputation of either hands or feet.

Gentlemen, I should not do my duty towards you, if I did not tell you that I hope, and, indeed, believe, that the King's present Ministers, beginning to penetrate through the thick disguise, which has so long (by means of falsehoods at the use of which Satan himself would blush) been practised by your greedy and merciless foes, are sincerely disposed to use their exertions in suppressing the unconstitutional doings by which

the main part of your sufferings have been occasioned. With regard to the church they have, at least, *begun* to inquire and to act; and, with regard to the *corporations*, they have, at any rate, *proposed* to make a change for the better. The old Norman maxim, "il vaut mieux qu'une cité perisse qu'un GUEUX PARVENU la gouverne;" that "it is better that a city perish than that it be governed by an UNPRINCIPLED BEGGAR ARRIVED at WEALTH"; this maxim seems to have been adopted by them; they appear to have duly estimated the unbearable grievance of this petty and capricious despotism, so cruel a scourge to the people and so injurious to the permanence of the just power of their master and of our Sovereign; they appear to have seen, at last, the magnitude of this crying evil, and to have resolved to redress it, in any part of the kingdom, where the tantalizing and insulting curse may be found to exist.

Gentlemen, "who," says the poet, "can wallow naked in December snow by barely thinking of the summer's heat?" And how am I, filled with beef, and my body covered with linen and woollen, to inculcate *patience* to those who are fed on an insipid and spiritless root, and who are half-naked: Yet, gentlemen, I do hope, that, as the Ministers profess to better the lot of Ireland, and as I am sure, that a *majority* of the House of Commons most anxiously desire to cause the sufferings of the Irish people to cease, you will seek by the lawful mode of petition, by a careful and resolute exercise of your elective franchise, and by calling on your fellow-subjects, the just and compassionate people of England, for their lawful co-operation; that you will by these means, seek for that change in the system of governing Ireland, which is so loudly demanded by justice and humanity, and which is so necessary to the safety of the nation and to the durability of his Majesty's throne.

WM. COBBETT.

City of Limerick, 19. October, 1834.

DESTRUCTION OF THE HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT BY FIRE.

(From the Times of Friday, Oct. 17).

Shortly before 7 o'clock last night Thursday, October 16, the inhabitants of Westminster, and of the districts on the opposite bank of the river, were thrown into the utmost confusion and alarm by the sudden breaking out of one of the most terrific conflagrations that has been witnessed for many years past. Those in the immediate vicinity of the scene of this calamity were quickly convinced of the truth of the cry, that the Houses of Lords and Commons and the adjacent buildings were on fire; the ill news spread rapidly through the town, and the flames increasing, and mounting higher and higher with fearful rapidity, attracted the attention not only of the passengers in the streets, but if we may judge from the thousands of persons who in a few minutes were seen hurrying to Westminster, of the vast majority of the inhabitants of the metropolis. We scarcely ever recollect to have seen the large thoroughfare of the town so thronged before. Within less than half an hour after the fire broke out, it became impossible to approach nearer to the scene of disaster than the foot of Westminster-bridge on the Surrey side of the river, or the end of Parliament-street on the other, except by means of a boat, or with the assistance of a guide, who, well acquainted with the localities, was enabled to avoid the crowd and reach Abingdon-street by the streets at the back of the Abbey. This locality, however, was in a very short space of time as densely thronged with spectators as any other. There was, however, nothing surprising in the multitude that flocked to the spot; in the crowded boats that floated on the river immediately in the front of the blazing pile, or in the countless numbers that swarmed upon the bridges, the wharfs, and even upon the housetops; for the spectacle was one of surpassing though terrific splendour, and the stately appearance of the Abbey, whose architectural beauties were never seen to greater advan-

tage than when lighted by the flames of this unfortunate fire, would of themselves have attracted as many thousands to the spot. But, extensive as the mischief we have to deplore really was, rumour had magnified it most fearfully. It was currently reported through the town that Westminster-hall, and even the Abbey itself, was in flames.

How and where the fire originated are still matters of doubt. The general belief, however, appears to be that it broke out in some part of the buildings attached to the House of Lords, from whence it spread to the House itself with such vast celerity, that before 8 o'clock the whole range of structure, from the portico by which the peers enter, to the corner where it communicates with the committee-rooms of the House of Commons, was in flames.

As rapidly did the devouring element extend its ravages to the ancient chapel of St. Stephen's, where the work of destruction was sooner over than in the other House of Parliament. The greater quantity of timber which the fabric of the House of Commons contained will readily account for this; and it is further to be observed, that from the situation of the building, and the unlucky circumstance of the tide being unusually low, a very scanty supply of water, and the application of only one or two engines, not very advantageously placed, were all that the most strenuous and the most zealous exertions could bring to bear in the vain attempt to save that interesting edifice from absolute destruction.

The conflagration, viewed from the river, was peculiarly grand and impressive. On the first view of it from the water, it appeared as if nothing could save Westminster-hall from the fury of the flames. There was an immense pillar of bright clear fire springing up behind it, and a cloud of white, yet dazzling smoke, careering above it, through which, as it was parted by the wind, you could occasionally perceive the lantern and pinacles, by which the building is ornamented. At the same time a shower of fiery particles appeared to be falling upon it with such unceasing ra-

pidity as to render it miraculous that the roof did not burst out into one general blaze. Till you passed through Westminster-bridge, you could not catch a glimpse of the fire in detail: you had only before you the certainty that the fire was of greater magnitude than usual, but of its mischievous shape and its real extent you could form no conception. Westminster-bridge, covered as it was with individuals standing on its balustrades, was a curious spectacle, as the dark masses of individuals formed a striking contrast with the clean white stone of which it is built, and which stood out well and boldly in the clear moonlight. As you approached the bridge you caught a sight through its arches of a motley multitude assembled on the strand below the Speaker's garden, and gazing with intense eagerness on the progress of the flames. Above them were seen the dark caps of the Fusilier Guards, who were stationed in the garden itself to prevent the approach of unwelcome intruders. Advancing still nearer, every branch and fibre of the trees which are in front of the House of Commons became clearly defined in the overpowering brilliance of the conflagration. As soon as you shot through the bridge, the whole of this melancholy spectacle stood before you. From the new pile of buildings, in which are the Parliament offices, down to the end of the Speaker's house, the flames were shooting out fast and furious through every window. The roof of Mr. Ley's house, of the House of Commons, and of the Speaker's house, had already fallen in, and as far as they were concerned, it was quite evident that the conflagration had done its worst. The tower, between these buildings and the Jerusalem Chamber, was a-light on every floor. The roof had partly fallen in, but it had not yet broken clean through the floors. The rafters, however, were all blazing, and from the volume of flame which they vomited forth through the broken casements, great fears were entertained for the safety of the other tenements in Cotton-garden. The fire, crackling and rustling with prodigious noise as it went along, soon devoured all the interior of

this tower, which contained, we believe, the library of the House of Commons. By eleven o'clock it was reduced to a mere shell, illuminated, however, from its base to its summit in the most bright and glowing tints of flame. The two oriel windows, which fronted the river, appeared to have their frame-works fringed with innumerable sparkles of lighted gas, and, as those frame-works yielded before the violence of the fire, seemed to open a clear passage right through the edifice for the destructive element. Above the upper window was a strong beam of wood burning fiercely from end to end. It was evidently the main support of the upper part of the building, and as the beam was certain to be reduced in a short time to ashes, apprehensions were entertained of the speedy fall of the whole edifice. At this time the voices of the firemen were distinctly heard preaching caution, and their shapes were indistinctly seen in the lurid light flitting about in the most dangerous situations. Simultaneously were heard in other parts of the frontage to the river, the smashing of windows, the battering down of wooden partitions, and the heavy clatter of falling bricks, all evidently displaced for the purpose of stopping the advance of the flames. The engines ceased to play on the premises whose destruction was inevitable, and poured their discharges upon the neighbouring houses which were yet unscathed. A little after twelve o'clock the library tower fell inwards with a dreadful crash, and shortly afterwards the flame, as if it had received fresh aliment, darted up in one startling blaze, which was almost immediately quenched in a dense column of the blackest smoke. As soon as this smoke cleared away, the destructive ravages of the fire became more evident. Through a vista of flaming walls you beheld the Abbey frowning in melancholy pride over its defaced and shattered neighbours. As far as you could judge from the river, the work of ruin was accomplished but too effectually in the Parliamentary buildings which skirt its shores.

The appearance of the fire from the corner of Abingdon-street was also ex-

ceedingly striking. For a length of time the exertions of the firemen appeared to be principally directed to save that part of the House of Lords which consisted of the tower that rose above the portico. All the rest of the line of building was enveloped in flames, which had extended themselves along the whole (except the wing) of that part of the adjacent building to the left that fronts Abingdon-street, and the upper store of which were committee-rooms, while at the basement were the stone steps leading to the House of Commons. The wing of this building, however, which rose high above the rest, the upper part being a portion of Bellamy's, and the tower being used as a receptacle of the great-coats, &c., of members of the House of Commons, was for some time the tower above the portico at the entrance to the House of Lords, but slightly injured by the flames, and these two objects seeming to bound the ravages of the fire and to offer successful resistance to its further progress, while all between them was in one uninterrupted blaze, attracted universal attention. The flames did not in fact extend beyond these two points, but seemed to exhaust themselves in the destruction of them. They took fire nearly at the same moment, and burning furiously for nearly half an hour, the whole structure, from the entrance of the House of Commons to the entrance of the House of Lords, presented one bright sheet of flame. At length the roofs and ceilings gave way, and when the smoke and sparks that followed the crash of the heavy burning mass that fell had cleared away, nothing met the eye but an unsightly ruin, tinted with the dark red glare reflected from the smouldering embers at its feet.

Half-past two o'clock.

Westminster-hall is, we think, quite safe. The fire still burns furiously among the ruins which it has made, but its power to do further mischief appears to have ceased; it is confined within the limits of the walls of the two houses already destroyed. The ener-

gies, however, of the firemen and soldiers are not at all relaxed. Fresh engines and fresh supplies of men are coming to the scene of devastation, and a continued volley of water is showered upon the ruins. More vigorous exertion and more active zeal we never witnessed; but it must be confessed that our ordinary engines are totally incapable of contending with such a conflagration as that of last night, and that our fire-engine system wants the great element of efficiency, a general superintendent. Each fire-office acts according to its own view; there is no obedience to one chief, and consequently where the completest co-operation is necessary all is confusion or contradiction. We impute no blame to the fire-offices or to their men; the conduct of individuals was above all praise, but the want of a general leader and director must have been in the course of the evening as evident to them as it was to the discerning portion of the spectators. Up to the last we observed no disturbance; and, indeed, before three o'clock there was scarcely a person to be seen except the soldiers and firemen. The myriads who had for hours peopled the streets had all quietly dispersed; and the only sound heard was the crackling of timbers, or the heaving of the fire-pumps.

EXTENT OF THE DAMAGE DONE.

The Painted Chamber and the whole of the House of Lords and Commons, including the Library, and Mr. Ley's house, are entirely destroyed; and the south wall of the Library has fallen in: part of the Speaker's house is also destroyed. The Parliament offices, at the west end of the House of Lords, which are entered from Abingdon-street, by the gateway at the Star and Garter public-house, are saved, together with all the books and papers they contained, and all the books from the library. The books and furniture of these two buildings were removed early by the police, and placed in the yard adjoining, and in the terraced garden, covered over with carpets and tarpaulins.

A marble mantel-piece in the Speaker's house, valued at 200*l.*, was taken down and removed to a place of safety, with other property, in the rooms that were consumed.

The King's entrance from Abingdon-street and the Grand Staircase are also preserved, the communication with the rest of the building having been cut off.

Westminster-hall, for which the greatest anxiety was evinced by every one, is safe. Engines were conducted into the body of the hall, and their supply directed through the large window at the south-west end over the entrance to the late Houses of Lords and Commons: all beyond that entrance and window appeared to be a complete ruin. The glass of the window is of course broken, but the mullions remain entire.

The courts of law remain uninjured, or it is believed, have only sustained some very trifling damage.

There were several reports as to the origin of the fire, but none sufficiently precise to be relied upon. The most probable cause seems to be that it originated in the flues, which have been lately repaired, and in which some experiments have been making for the purpose of more efficiently warming the House of Lords. Other rumours of an injurious tendency were circulated, but no shadow of proof was offered.

Lords Melbourne and Duncannon were early on the spot, anxiously watching the progress of the flames. The latter lord ascended the roof of the House of Commons, to watch and superintend the play of the engines, and owing to the rapid spread of the fire was in considerable danger, especially as he gallantly refused to leave the roof till all the firemen and soldiers who were with him had first descended.

On our return home by water we met a steam-vessel towing up to Westminster the floating engine. It might have been of great service had it arrived earlier; but the state of the tide and the shallowness of the water, prevented the steamer from coming sooner up the river. We have since heard that nearly an hour

was lost before it could be brought into play, but when it did commence, the effect which it did produce on the burning embers was said to be positively prodigious.

(From the Times of 18. October).

With the first dawn of light yesterday morning the public anxiety for the fate of the burning buildings in Palace-yard again became visible; spectators were once more attracted to the blazing ruins, but not in the same compact and numerous bodies which were assembled around them on the preceding evening. At five o'clock in the morning the military and police, who had been on duty from the commencement of the conflagration, were relieved, and the firemen, who had exerted themselves most indefatigably during the night, were enabled, as the fire was gradually subsiding, to cease from their arduous and exhausting labours. As the day advanced the ravages committed by the flames became more and more distinct, and tremendous as they really were, appeared less than rumour, with its hundred tongues, had stated them to be. The degree to which they extended was correctly described in our journal of yesterday, and it is therefore unnecessary to repeat that description, especially as a still more minute statement of the appalling effects of the fire will be given below. There was, however, nothing striking, nothing picturesque, in the appearance of the ruins. The devastation was too general and complete to present to the eye of the spectator any of those extraordinary combinations of shattered walls and tottering roofs which sometimes reconcile us by their terrible beauty to the very destruction which has created them. For some time before the majority of the inhabitants of London were again stirring in the streets the fire was entirely subdued, and though the engines continued to pour streams of water on the smouldering embers for some hours afterwards, it was more as a matter of precaution than of positive necessity. To prevent the molestation of inconvenient numbers, the approaches to New Palace-

yard continued to be carefully guarded on every side by strong bodies of military and police; and before mid-day barriers were erected, beyond which there was no passage except for those who were officially engaged in guarding the ruined buildings. At the same time preparations were made to surround them by a strong and extensive barrier, with a view of diminishing the danger to be apprehended from the tottering condition of many detached portions of the walls abutting on the street. Sir John Cam Hobhouse, who, as Chief Commissioner of Woods and Forests, considered it to be his duty to superintend the different operations for checking the progress of the flames and for ensuring the safety of the public, was about the ruins the greater part of the day, and gave various directions to the firemen and workmen for the preservation of the various descriptions of property which during the morning was indiscriminately placed in St. Margaret's churchyard and in the Speaker's garden. In both these places an armed force was kept parading up and down for several hours; nor was it withdrawn until the property was removed to other places better adapted for safe custody. Books and furniture and other articles of value remained for many hours piled upon each other in strange confusion under a covering of carpets and tarpaulins, but they were at last all carefully carried away, under the inspection of the police, with as little damage as could be reasonably expected. It will gratify our readers to hear that the pictures and books of the Speaker, who arrived in town from Brighton at twelve o'clock, were not much damaged, and that the jewels and wardrobe of his lady escaped uninjured. The greater part of his plate is said to have been at his banker's, but even that part of it which was in the house at the commencement of the fire has been saved from its relentless ravages. The libraries of the two Houses of Parliament are also stated to have suffered very inconsiderable damage.

It is not to be supposed that, while all this was going on under the eyes of the public, the public was silent as to the

causes which had led to this terrible disaster. It was stated more than once that it was the work of an incendiary, and persons even mentioned the names of public functionaries who had discovered in the Speaker's garden, while the conflagration was at its height, half of the very bundle of matches by which this mass of national property had been ignited. Our own conviction is, that no such discovery was made, and that it is a mere idle rumour, undeserving of the slightest attention. We know at least that the Speaker, who made some inquiry into the manner in which the fire originated, expressed his conviction that the cause was accidental. But even when it is assumed that the fire was occasioned by accident, and not by design, a degree of mystery involves the consideration of the next question, namely, what that accident was? Some persons contended, on the authority of certain firemen, that it was the bursting of a gas-pipe in the House of Lords, where the fire was first discovered; but others maintained as stoutly, and as appeared to us with better reason, that it was occasioned by the overheating of some of the flues, which had set fire to the dry wood surrounding them. This opinion acquires considerable weight from the admitted fact that for some days past certain subordinate officers in the Exchequer have been engaged, by order of their superiors, in burning in the buildings adjacent to the House of Lords a collection of old documents and tallies, which under the alterations recently introduced into that department of the Treasury have become a vast mass of useless lumber. For the two or three last days, Mrs. Wright, the housekeeper of the House of Lords, is said to have complained of the immense heat which pervaded the whole of that building, and which, as she fancied, was accompanied by an indistinct smell of fire. Now, if this be correct, the fire must have been smouldering for some time in the dry timbers of the edifice; and if we admit that supposition, we obtain a reason why the flames might burst out simultaneously, as they are said to have done, in different places, and why

they afterwards proceeded with such frightful rapidity in their career of devastation. Another party of speculators insisted that the mischief was occasioned by the incaution of some plumbers who were engaged in repairing the flues of the Bishops' Lobby, which communicates with the House of Lords, and who left their work without extinguishing their fire. We cannot find that there is any authority for this statement. Mr. Cottle, who is said to have discovered the fire first, found it blazing with tremendous activity in the House of Lords, near the throne, but it is quite clear from the statements attributed to that gentleman in the evening papers, that it must have broken out elsewhere, and must have been spreading itself in different directions long before the stifling smell of fire induced him to leave the committee-room in which he was writing. To the alarm given by that gentleman several persons owe their lives, particularly Mrs. Wright, the housekeeper, and her servant, whose apartment was almost enveloped in flame before she was able to leave it. With the scanty information before us, we cannot pretend to speak positively as to the origin of this lamentable catastrophe; but it is not likely to remain long unknown, as the whole progress of the conflagration is to be made the subject of a strict and rigorous investigation.

Another question, which was also frequently discussed during the course of the day, was, where the two Houses would hold their sittings till a new edifice should be erected for their accommodation. It was suggested by some that Westminster-hall, which has served the House of Lords during several impeachments as a place of meeting, might be easily fitted up as a temporary senate-house. It was suggested by others, that as the Convention Parliament was held in Guildhall, and as the House of Commons had frequently assembled in the city during the civil war, so unjustly denominated the great Rebellion, there would be no difficulty in providing a place in which the Legislature could hold its deliberations in some of the

public edifices belonging to the corporation of London. A third party hinted that the old Palace of St. James's, though it did not contain many private apartments in which an English gentleman of rank could live comfortably, did contain public apartments of state quite large enough to contain either the hereditary or the collective wisdom of the nation. A fourth party maintained that the new palace at Buckingham-house, with all its extent of offices and out-houses, would of all others be the place for the meeting of a Parliament; but this proposal was immediately rejected, on the ground that the abandonment of this palace to the public would be a sacrifice too great for his Majesty to make, and for his subjects to require. Little did those who used such language know the devotion which his Majesty feels for the interests of his subjects; for scarcely had their words died away from the ear before it was generally known that his Majesty had placed that very palace at the disposal of the nation, in order to prevent the public service from suffering any detriment.

The attention of the ever-changing crowd of spectators, which continued all the day long in the neighbourhood of Palace-yard, was not however always directed to such high matters of state as those to which we have just been alluding. Two or three times during the day it was directed to the working of the fire-engines, which began to play afresh whenever the denseness of the smoke indicated that there was some danger lest the smouldering embers should again burst forth into flame. In two instances, which came within our knowledge, this apprehension was verified. The first occurred about noon, and the last about six o'clock in the evening, when the firemen, who had retired to the public-houses in the neighbourhood to take some refreshment, were summoned from their unfinished meal to extinguish some flames which re-appeared for a few minutes in the north-west corner of the House of Lords. At nine o'clock, when we again visited the scene of devastation, no further danger appeared to be apprehended. Several

of the engines had departed, but lest any accident should unexpectedly recur, a fatigue company of the Guards was posted by the engines which remained on the ground, and was to continue so posted during the night. At that time the crowd in attendance was inconsiderable, and the authorities were availing themselves of it to build two additional barriers across the street, one nearly opposite to Mr. Canning's statue, and the other at the end of Abingdon-street. The horde of which we have already spoken was at that hour nearly finished.

It is almost unnecessary to state that the spectators of the fire yesterday were not so numerous as they were on the preceding evening. But what was wanted in the quantity, was made up yesterday in the quality of the visitors. It was said that some members of the Royal Family came to view the ruins, but of our own knowledge we can say nothing upon that head. Lord Melbourne, Lord Althorp, Lord Holland, the Marquis of Worcester, the Earl of Munster, and several other individuals of rank, were there. So, too, was the Duchess of St. Alban's. The demeanour of the people, great as well as small, was also as proper and as peaceable as it was during the progress of the fire. They betrayed nothing like a feeling of exultation at the frightful havoc which was going on around them, quite the reverse. They made jokes in their way on the passing occurrences of the moment: for they were ebullient with beer rather than with blarney, and could not, like an old Niobe of our acquaintance, "annihilate both time and place," and distil away in tears, in the fond imagination that Chathan spoke and died in a House of Lords which was not built till a quarter of a century after his decease. Surely our poorer countrymen are not to be prevented from cutting a joke upon the Poor-law Act, or if they do, are not to have their joke construed too severely *au pied de la lettre*? What great harm was there in remarking, "There's a bonfire for the Poor-law Bill," when there is not even an allegation that the parties who made this remark created that or any other bonfire?

If our phraseology is to be construed so literally, what shall we say to the phraseology of Lord Althorp himself? That nobleman distinguished himself on the night of the fire by his efforts to check its progress, and yet at one particular moment, hurried away by his zeal to preserve Westminster-hall, burst into the following animated exclamation: "D—n the House of Commons, let it blaze away; but save, oh save the Hall!" The exclamation was natural, and even praiseworthy; but some sticklers for privilege may deem it one of those unpardonable breaches of it for which nothing can win a pardon but a retirement from office. What harm was there, we would ask, in all the pleasantry of the ragged sweep upon the wretched bill which has destroyed his occupation? If he had cried out "filthy flues" it might perhaps have been considered, that in such a cry there was not a little of a "minching Milicho," but why is the innocent mirth of poor Snowball to be thus cruelly crushed upon the wheel? We recollect hearing it once said or sung, that if Guy Faux had succeeded in blowing up the Parliament House of his day, and a reporter of ours had lived to describe it, the catastrophe would have been thus figurately given—"At—o'clock the House *rose* amidst great uproar and loud cries of Oh! oh!" The joke might be a bad one, but why did it pass uncensured as a thing profane when we hear learned Thebans twaddling about the "expiating humour," which may excuse them for repeating the levity of a bystander, who said, "Mr. Hume's motion for a new House is carried without a division"! We beg pardon, if we are to swear to the truth of a song, there was a division on that point, and that was a strange division of continuity indeed.

In the course of the day we heard of individuals who had had narrow escapes from perishing in the flames. Among others were mentioned the Earl of Munster, and his brother, Lord Frederick Fitzclarence. We give the anecdotes as we heard them, without vouching for their truth. As the Earl of Munster was entering the library of the

House of Commons to encourage the workmen to persist in their efforts to save it, a part of the rafters of the ceiling fell in. His lordship was unaware of his danger until a labourer of the name of M'Callam seized him by the collar and dragged him out of the apartment as the entire ceiling fell in. His lordship escaped uninjured, but M'Callam had his shoulder dislocated by a rafter, and was obliged to be carried to the hospital. Lord F. Fitzclarence, and several soldiers and policemen, were in the uppermost room of the turret in the western corner when it was in flames. Their situation was one of great danger, although at first they were not aware of it. Presently their perilous condition was observed, and a fire-ladder was reared against the side of the turret. The parties descended by means of it, but the last to descend was the noble Lord in question. Immediately afterwards the whole turret was in a blaze. Similar gallantry was exhibited by Lord Duncannon, who did not descend from the roof of the House of Commons until all his party had descended before him. In two minutes after he had stepped from the ladder, the roof had descended to the floor.

There were some individuals, however, who were not so fortunate, and among other documents which have been transmitted to us, we have received the following list of the names of the sufferers, who have been taken into, and still remain in, Westminster Hospital:

George Simmonds, a mechanic, 10, Crown-street, Westminster, run over by a fire-engine; broken thigh, and otherwise bruised. Michael Penning, 7, Great Peter-street, Westminster; a fractured arm by falling of timber. John Hamilton, 43, Union-street, Borough, fireman; compound fractured leg (not expected to survive). Charles Boylan, labourer, 22, Coburg-street, Gray's-inn-road; fractured skull. Rosannah M'Cale, 4, Providence-row, Palmer's Village, Westminster; broken leg, from being run over. Ralph Raphael, 1, Stonecutter-street, Upper St. Martin's-lane; a fractured head. Thomas Rowarth, 30, James-street, New-

cut, fireman; fractured skull. John Slater, 9, Oxford-buildings, Oxford-street; a dislocated shoulder, and severely hurt by hot lead. John Hay, Horseferry-road; dislocated shoulder.

A great number of persons received minor injuries, whose wounds were dressed, and they left the hospital.

EXTENT OF THE DAMAGE.

The extent of the devastation occasioned by the fire was at first much exaggerated and variously appreciated; but grievous as the loss of any portion of the national edifices was considered, the regard for the ancient and venerable hall so far exceeded the estimation in which the adjacent buildings were held, that universal anxiety was expressed for its safety, and the sacrifice of the rest was deemed an evil comparatively light, and joyfully accepted on the assurance that the Hall was saved.

On visiting the ruins, the estimate of the damage sustained, as stated in our paper of yesterday, was fully confirmed. The King's entrance to the grand staircase and the greater part of the grand corridor have been preserved. The Painted Chamber and the end of the grand corridor approaching it are entirely destroyed, and also the robing-room and the apartments on the left of the extremity of the grand corridor. The remains of the Painted Chamber and the library present such a mass of ruin, that it is difficult to trace the site on which they stood. The front towards Abingdon-street, with the exception of the King's entrance, and one tower on the opposite side, is a confused heap of ruins. The cloisters are no longer seen, and the greater part of the front wall having fallen in, exposes the wall which once formed the southern side of the House of Lords. A stack of chimneys at its northern extremity stood alone, apparently in a tottering and dangerous position. The walls of the buildings formerly occupied by Bellamy's Coffee-house, one or two of the committee-rooms, the gallery, and, on the

basement story, the entrance to the House of Commons, and the waiting-room, are all that remain of that portion of the building. The north wall of this last building appears to have formed the boundary of the fire in that direction, the Rolls' Court, which adjoins, being untouched, and the other courts uninjured to any considerable extent. On the south side, towards the river, the appearance is similar to that stated in our paper of yesterday. The Parliament offices are uninjured beyond such damage as the hurried removal of the furniture, books, and papers must have occasioned. The front of the painted chamber, the library of the House of Lords, Mr. Ley's house, and the House of Commons, are completely destroyed and gutted of every particle of the timber, a smouldering mass of the bottom presenting the only remains except the bare walls. Three or four of the rooms of the Speaker's house are also consumed, as well as the state dining-room, which is of course demolished, as it was under the House of Commons. The fire was fortunately checked in that direction, or the destruction of Westminster-hall would have been inevitable. The Speaker, attended by Mr. Palmer and several of the officers of both Houses, was occupied for a considerable time yesterday morning in examining the ruins and ascertaining the extent of the damage; at the same time a number of clerks from the different departments were anxiously engaged in superintending the return of the books and papers to the Parliamentary offices. The origin of the fire is still ascribed to different causes, but from the best information we have received, we believe that it was occasioned by the flues employed for warming the House of Lords having been overheated. It is stated that a considerable number of the old tallies by which the accounts were formerly kept in the Exchequer have been burnt within the last few days for the purpose of heating these flues. The reductions that have taken place in the attendants in the House of Lords have deprived the establishment of some of the individuals who had the care of the

flues. The quick heat produced by the destruction of the old tallies, and some unknown defect or foulness in the flues, are supposed to have been the means of igniting some of the surrounding timbers.

A gentleman who was engaged in one of the new committee-rooms (No. 21), over the library of the House of Commons, on descending the staircase about six o'clock on Thursday afternoon, first perceived the flames in that direction, and with difficulty effected his retreat. The alarm was instantly given, and the preservation of the books and papers from the apartments adjoining evinced the zeal and exertions which were used by all parties.

Mr. Butt, the Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms, has fortunately saved his mace, after the room in which it was deposited was on fire. He placed a ladder to the window, and two firemen gallantly mounted, and having broken open the window with their axes, in a similar manner opened the cupboard in which it was deposited, and handed it out to Mr. Butt. The mace is valued at 400*l*.

We subjoin an official report of the damage occasioned by the fire :

"The following is the official report upon the damage done to the buildings, furniture, &c., of the two Houses of Parliament, the Speaker's official residence, the official residence of the Clerk of the House of Commons, and to the courts of law at Westminster-hall, occasioned by the fire on the 16. day of October, 1834, as far as can at present be ascertained :

" HOUSE OF PEERS.

"The House, robing-rooms, committee-rooms in the west front, and the rooms of the resident officers as far as the Octagon Tower at the south end of the building ; totally destroyed.

"The Painted Chamber ; totally destroyed.

"The north-end of the Royal Gallery, abutting on the Painted Chamber, destroyed from the door leading into the Painted Chamber, as far as the first compartment of columns.

"The library and the adjoining

rooms, which are now undergoing alterations, as well as the Parliament offices and the offices of the Lord Great Chamberlain, together with the committee-rooms, housekeeper's apartments, &c., in this part of the building, are saved.

" HOUSE OF COMMONS.

"The House, libraries, committee-rooms, housekeeper's apartments, &c., are totally destroyed (excepting the committee-rooms Nos. 11, 12, 13, and 14, which are capable of being repaired).

"The official residence of Mr. Ley (Clerk of the House); this building is totally destroyed.

"The official residence of the Speaker; the state dining-room under the House of Commons is much damaged, but capable of restoration.

"All the rooms from the oriel window on the south side of the House of Commons are destroyed,

"The levee-rooms and other parts of the building, together with the public galleries, and part of the cloisters, very much damaged.

" THE COURTS OF LAW.

"These buildings will require some restoration.

"The furniture generally has sustained considerable damage.

" WESTMINSTER-HALL.

"No damage has been done to this building.

" FURNITURE.

"The furniture, fixtures, and fittings to both the Houses of Lords and Commons, with the committee-rooms belonging thereto, are with two exceptions destroyed. The public furniture at the Speaker's is in great part destroyed.

"The strictest inquiry is in progress as to the cause of this calamity, but there is not the slightest reason to suppose

that it has arisen from any other than accidental causes.

"Office of Woods, Oct. 17."

SAYINGS PICKED UP AMONG THE CROWD.

(Communicated by various Correspondents.)

A ragged-looking man, who was observing persons busily engaged in removing books and papers from the library of the House of Commons, eagerly asked of every body that passed him, "Whether the Poor-law Bill was burnt." At length some one good humouredly took compassion upon him, and no doubt thinking it useless to attempt to explain to the inquirer the error under which he evidently laboured, answered "That the Poor-law Bill had been saved from the flames." "Worse luck then to them that saved it," rejoined the man, "and I wish them as made it and them as saved it was burnt themselves."

On the Lambeth side of the river a number of persons were collected together in front of a boat-house immediately opposite the House of Commons. Among these was a chimney-sweeper, who was gazing very earnestly at the fire. A lad, who looked like a "waterman's apprentice," clapped the sweep upon the shoulder, saying, "Well, Snowball, ar'nt you glad?" "Glad of what?" asked the sweep. "Why of the fire, to be sure, Sooty; if both Houses are burnt, musn't your gagging act be burnt along with it, and can't you now cry 'Sweep' and 'Soot oh' in spite of the Parliament?" "No," said the sweep, "for master's got a copy on it at home." "But," rejoined the other, "you don't mean to say he'll be such a fool as to let the Parliament chaps know that?"

A gentleman who went down to Westminster in a cab asked the driver if he had heard anything about the cause of the fire? "Why yes, sir," was the reply; "some says as it's done by the

builders to make a job for themselves, and I did hear too as how it was Mr. Hume as set 'em on, 'cause you see, sir, the members wouldn't build a new house, though Mr. Hume has ax'd 'em ever so many times to do it, and told 'em how wery uncomfortable he was in the old un."

A coalheaver, who appeared to be rather the worse for liquor, attempted to pass the soldiers stationed at the end of Abingdon-street, in order to get into Old Palace-yard. He was stopped, of course, and after a good deal of disputing said, "Vell, then, my fine lobster, so you really means for to say as you won't by no manner of means let me go and see my own property a-burning?" "Your own property?" said the soldier, with a laugh. "Yes, Mr. Impurrence, my own property," replied the coalheaver; "and if you know'd anything vatsumdever about the liberty o' the subject, there'd be no call for me to tell you as how they'll lay a tax upon me for to help to build it up again. But you're nothing but a soldier, and don't pay no taxes." With this the indignant black diamond merchant walked off in dudgeon.

A new comer, after contemplating the fire for a few minutes, exclaimed, "Well, I'm blessed if I ever saw such a flare-up as this before." "Nor I," said a waggish artisan standing by his side; "I never thought the two Houses would go so near to set the Thames on fire."

FURTHER PARTICULARS.

There are a variety of statements afloat relative to the origin of the fire. According to some, it is stated to have commenced in the roof of Howard's coffee-room, and to have been occasioned by some experiments which were being tried on some new stoves that had been just fixed. Others state that it broke out in a passage leading to the bar of the House of Lords. Others again state, among whom is Mr. Bellamy, jun., that

it was first discovered in the very centre of the House of Lords; but all persons concur that when the alarm was first given, which was about twenty-five minutes before seven o'clock, a considerable portion of the House of Lords was in flames. The first engine that arrived was one belonging to the parish of St. John, Westminster, which was instantly followed by the County and a hand engine from Bedfordbury, belonging to the London fire-engine establishment. These were placed near the entrance to the House of Lords, and immediately got into play, and as the other engines arrived they were placed around the burning buildings. About seven o'clock, considerable alarm was felt for the safety of Westminster-hall, in consequence of the great body of flames and flakes of fire which were carried over it. By that time the House of Lords was one body of flame, and the fire was burning most furiously against the splendid window at the south end of the hall, and also on the eastern and western side. Several gentlemen (among whom we particularly noticed Captain Thornton, of Palace-yard), being particularly anxious for the preservation of that ancient and splendid edifice, exerted themselves most strenuously to effect that object. After having a plug drawn in front of the hall in New Palace-yard, one of the establishment engines was brought there, and the hose stretched into the hall; but the extent of that building being greater than the length of their hose, it was found necessary to have another engine brought into the centre of the hall and supplied by the one outside, which was immediately done, and the branch carried up a ladder, and through the window, on to some leads, where the fireman had great command of the fire. In a few minutes afterwards the hose of the County engine was brought through the passage leading from the Commons entrance into the hall, and carried to the same place. This, for about an hour, in some measure allayed the fear entertained of the fire communicating to the magnificent roof, but when the conflagration had extended to the House of Commons on the right, and the build-

ings in the Speaker's yard on the left, where two engines belonging to the fire establishment, and one to the Exchequer Court, were in full operation, it was found necessary to have another engine brought into the hall, which was immediately done. By this time Earl Munster, Lord Adolphus Fitzclarence, the Marquis of Worcester, Captain Gordon, and a number of other noblemen and gentlemen were in the hall, and, after conferring together, it was determined to open the door under the great window, and see what progress the fire had made in that part. On trying the door it was found to be fastened, and one of the scaffold poles was used as a battering ram, which soon broke it in. Inside of the passage into which it opened were found a large quantity of acts of Parliament, report of committees, &c., which were instantly removed by all hands to the northern end of the hall for safety. The fire had by this time made most fearful progress, the flames rising many yards above the burning buildings, and myriads of sparks flying into the air; it was proposed to have the scaffolding, which had been erected for the repairs of the inside of the hall, removed, for fear of the fire communicating to it from the outside. This was opposed by several gentlemen, on the ground of its being useful to the firemen in directing their operations, and it was ordered to remain, and by means of it, the hose from two more engines were carried up on each side of the hall to the outside of the roof, to which, there is no doubt, is to be attributed the preservation of the building. A door at the south-western end of the hall was then forced open, and Earl Munster, &c., went through the passages into the Commons' lobby. Here the fire was fast descending from the upper part, to prevent which the branch from the British engine was brought up the staircase, but notwithstanding the greatest exertions of the men, under the direction of White, the engineer, were devoted to effect that object, it was found impossible to stop it, and they were compelled to retreat. Between 9 and 10 o'clock a large engine, from the Horse Barracks

at Knightsbridge, was brought by a party of the Blues, which, with a powerful engine from Elliott's brewery, at Pimlico (which was early on the spot), was brought to bear on the flames, then raging furiously over the members' entrance to the House of Commons. About half-past 10, part of the outer wall of the House of Lords fell with a tremendous crash, and we are sorry to say that a fireman, named John Hambleton, No. 16 D, stationed in the Southwark-bridge-road, had both his thighs broken by a piece of timber. He was immediately taken on a shutter to Westminster Hospital, where he still remains. At 11 o'clock an express was sent by Captain Elliot, one of the Lords of the Admiralty, to Sir John M'Donald, the commanding officer at Deptford dock-yard, for the engines belonging to the Victualling Department, which were immediately forwarded. Two of them arrived about half-past one o'clock a.m., one brought by 17 marines, and the other by 16, and in a few minutes afterwards four more engines arrived, each drawn by a pair of horses and accompanied by a party of the dock police, under Inspector Osborne, the whole commanded by Captain Brown, R. N., who ordered them instantly to be put to work. About 12 o'clock a great sensation was created by its becoming known that a quantity of matches had been found under a tree in a corner of the Speaker's garden, by Mr. Jones, a medical gentleman, residing in Carlisle-street, Soho-square. He immediately communicated the circumstance to police-constable Farrell, No. 48 L, and to a sentry belonging to the second battalion of the Grenadier Guards, who instantly acquainted his superior officer of the discovery. At this time the greatest fears were again entertained for the safety of Westminster-hall, the fire having caught No. 12 committee-room, which abuts upon the Court of Chancery. A party of the Guards, aided by several firemen, under the orders of Mr. Braidwood, the superintendent of the first establishment, and Rooke, the foreman of the County Fire-office, were immediately set to unroof that building, and cut

the floorings away, and thereby stop the communication, which after great exertion they happily effected, after which the fire did not extend any farther in that direction. At 1 o'clock the scene from Westminster-bridge and the river was awfully grand. The Commons' library, the Painted Chamber, the Gothic Hall, Mr. Ley's residence, and the two Houses of Parliament, being one body of fire, in a short time, communicated to the northern wing of the Speaker's house. The only engines at this part of the fire were two in the Speaker's court (both of which belonged to that department), two belonging to St. Margaret's parish, and St. Martin's engine. The three latter were in the garden. At 20 minutes past 1, the bow front of the library fell into the garden with a loud crash, and it was reported that a fireman and a soldier were buried in the ruins; but we were unable to ascertain the truth of this report. At half-past 1 the roof of the southern wing of the Speaker's house was taken off by a party of men belonging to the Board of Works, by direction of Lord Hill; and the hose of the engine carried through. At this juncture the floating engine arrived, having been towed up from Rotherhithe by a steamer. After some time it was got to work, and about three o'clock the fire in the Speaker's house was so far subdued as to allay any fears for the safety of the southern wing. Throughout the night the ruins continued to burn with great fury, but the engines being kept constantly at work, a stream, exclusive of the float, which throws a tun a minute, of about 2,000 gallons per minute was thrown upon them. About eight o'clock yesterday morning the fire at the end of the hall again assumed an alarming aspect, but the engines in the hall were immediately at work and subdued it. A great quantity of records were removed to St. Margaret's Church, under the direction of Schofield, one of the Marlborough-street officers, and a quantity of papers and documents of various kinds were taken to the neighbouring houses for safety. The principal part of the Commons' library, we are happy to say, was

saved. Throughout the whole of yesterday an immense number of persons from all parts of town and the suburbs went to see the ruins, but a cordon of police was drawn across the end of Abingdon-street and Palace-yard, beyond which they were not admitted. The Chancellor's mace, which is the one that was carried before the ill-fated Charles when he went to execution, we are happy to say, was saved, and safely deposited at the house of Mr. Butts, Sergeant-at-Mace. Besides the names above mentioned, we noticed the following noblemen, &c., as being particularly active in rendering assistance: Lords Auckland, Melbourne, Duncannon; Colonels Lygon, Hill, &c.; Messrs. Hume, White and Gregorie (the magistrates of Queen's-square), Mayne, the commissioner of police, the secretaries of most of the fire-offices; and Messrs. Lott, Merryweather, and Bristow, the engineers, were in attendance, and rendered great assistance.

LIFE OF JACKSON.

THIS book, with an interesting frontispiece, and an exact likeness of the President, is now published, and may be had, very neatly bound in boards, at Bolt-court, and of all booksellers. The price is 3s.

This history was written by Mr. EATON, a senator of the United States, for TENNESSEE, the colleague of JACKSON in that station; and now his Secretary at War. They both lived on their farms near NASHVILLE in TENNESSEE, and Mr. EATON was manifestly furnished with the official documents by JACKSON himself. My main object was to lay before the people of England the true character of this great soldier and statesman. I have, therefore, left out, in my

abridgment, a large part of those details, which would not have been so interesting here, and which were not necessary to the furthering of my object; but I have omitted nothing tending to effect that object. Mr. EATON concluded his work with the conclusion of the last war, and of the wonderful feats of this resolute man at NEW ORLEANS. I have continued his history down from that time to the month of February last, giving a particular account of all his proceedings with regard to the infamous Bank.

As a frontispiece, there is a portrait of the President, which many American gentlemen have told me is a good likeness of him. It is copied from the portrait of Mr. EATON's book; and, of course, it was taken from the life and with great care.

I have dedicated this book to the WORKING PEOPLE OF IRELAND, as being a record of the deeds of a man that sprang from parents who formed part of themselves.

My readers have seen with what delight I have recorded the triumphs of this man. First, for his own sake; secondly, because he is descended immediately from poor Irish parents; thirdly, because he was so basely and infamously treated by British officers, at the early part of the American revolutionary war; but, above all things, because he sprang immediately from poor Irish parents.

From the LONDON GAZETTE,

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1834.

INSOLVENTS.

CARTER, T., Cateaton-street, cloth-factor.
 FLAXMAN, R., Fetter-lane, carpenter.
 LEWIS, T. R., Tonbridge-place, wine-merchant.

BANKRUPTCIES ANNULLED.

CATTARAL, W., and W. Hinde, Liverpool, drysalters.
 FRANKLAND, C., sen., Scotton, Lincolnsh., maltster.

BANKRUPTS.

ADE, M., and F. Berger, Lime-street, merchants.
 BUTTENSHAW, S., High Holborn, tea-dealer.
 EMSON, C., Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire, horse-dealer.
 GOODE, S., King's Lynn, Norfolk, money-scrivener.
 GRAY, M., Walsall, Staffordshire, grocer.
 HOWLETT, E., and J. J. Brimmer, Frith-street, Soho-square, printers.
 HUGHES, T., Leamington Priors, Warwickshire, auctioneer.
 LEWIS, R., and J. Dutton, Wottonunder-Edge, Gloucestershire, clothiers.
 LLOYD, E., Harley-street, Cavendish-square, bookseller.
 LORD, T., Newton-leath, and Manchester, silk-manufacturer.
 PRICE, R., Stockwell-street, Greenwich, grocer.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28.

INSOLVENTS.

BURNARD, M. E., Bideford, Devonshire, dealer in merchandise.
 COOK, J., Dartford, Kent, miller.
 JONES, H., Poultry, chinaman.

BANKRUPTS.

BAILEY, R., Wottonunder-Edge, Gloucestershire, bookbinder.
 CRANE, F. C., Upper Bedford-place, Russell-square, surgeon.
 DE PINNA, J. S., Bucklersbury, feather and leghorn hat-broker.
 GATENBY, R., High-street, Shadwell, grocer.
 HARRIS, D., Strand, hosier.
 JONES, T. M., Birmingham, retail-brewer.
 PEAK, J. B., Market-Drayton, Shropshire, tanner.
 PRIESTLEY, T., Halifax, Yorkshire, wool-stapler.
 PROSSER, T., Warwickshire, draper.
 SHAW, J., Great Driffield, Yorkshire, corn-factor and maltster.
 SKINNER, R., Exmouth, Devonshire, baker.
 SMITH, J. W., North Shields, ship-owner.

LONDON MARKETS.

MARK-LANE, CORN-EXCHANGE, Oct. 27.—The weather having enabled the farmers to pursue their field labours, has caused the arrivals to fall off, and this morning we were very moderately supplied with land carriage samples from the home counties. Millers also being enabled generally to work, purchased more freely the better samples of Wheat, particularly red qualities, which sustained in consequence an advance of 1s. per quarter on the rates of this day se'nnight; fine white also participated in the improvement. Secondary and inferior sorts were likewise more saleable, the distillers having purchased the latter descriptions at from 38s. to 42s. In bonded corn nothing transpiring.

Barley was in limited supply, and fine qualities being in demand on the part of the maltsters, Chevalier samples, and the better description of malting, were fully 1s. per qr. dearer, Chevalier having realized 40s., and extra even higher. In middling descriptions, as well as distilling and grinding sorts, no alteration, and the latter kinds very dull.

Malt found more inquiry, and both new and old were a shade dearer.

Though the supply of Oats fresh up to this morning's market was moderate, yet the supplies left over from last week caused a good show of samples. The article met a free sale. Old fresh Corn being scarce and realizing with the better qualities of new the rates of last Monday, but the inferior new Irish were fully 6d. per quarter cheaper; and the black Oats coming to hand *foxy* and out of condition, were nearly unsaleable. The prices of Oats rising in Ireland, from the shortness of the receipts from the farmers, and the free-on-board sales hitherto not having turned out very profitably, has checked for the present speculative purchases on delivery.

Beans attracted more attention, and free foreign and English must be noted 1s. dearer.

White boiling Peas, owing to the weather having become colder, were in request, and the finest parcels were 1s. to 2s. higher. Grey also were held at 1s. per quarter more money.

The Flour trade ruled steady, and the supplies continuing short, ship marks obtained their former rates. In bonded qualities some purchases have been effected for export, sour obtaining 18s., and sweet 24s. per barrel.

Wheat, Essex, Kent, and Suffolk	41s. to 46s.
— White	50s. to 55s.
— Norfolk, Lincolnshire, and Yorkshire	40s. to 45s.
— White, ditto	40s. to 52s.
— West Country red	40s. to 45s.
— White, ditto	44s. to 52s.
— Northumberland and Berwickshire red	36s. to 45s.
— White, ditto	40s. to 47s.
— Moray, Angus, and Rothshire red	37s. to 40s.
— White, ditto	40s. to 46s.
— Irish red	34s. to 38s.
— White, ditto	36s. to 40s.
Barley, Malting	30s. to 36s.
— Chevalier	32s. to 40s.
— Distilling	28s. to 30s.
— Grinding	24s. to 28s.
Malt, new	42s. to 52s.
— Norfolk, pale	50s. to 58s.
— Ware	58s. to 61s.

Peas, Hog and Gray	36s. to 38s.
— Maple	38s. to 40s.
— White Boilers	38s. to 43s.
Beans, Small	34s. to 42s.
— Harrow	33s. to 39s.
— Tick	32s. to 37s.
Oats, English Feed	19s. to 22s.
— Short, small	21s. to 23s.
— Poland	20s. to 24s.
— Scotch, common	20s. to 25s.
— — Potato	23s. to 28s.
— — Berwick	22s. to 26s.
— Irish, Galway, &c.	17s. to 19s.
— — Potato	19s. to 24s.
— — Black	17s. to 21s.
Bran, per 16 bushels	11s. to 12s.
Flour, per sack	40s. to 43s.

PROVISIONS.

Butter, Dorset	40s. to 42s. per cwt.
— Cambridge	40s. to —s.
— York	38s. to —s.
Cheese, Dble. Gloucester	48s. to 68s.
— Single ditto	44s. to 48s.
— Cheshire	54s. to 74s.
— Derby	50s. to 60s.
Hams, Westmoreland	50s. to 60s.
— Cumberland	50s. to 60s.

SMITHFIELD, October 27.

This day's supply of Beasts was rather great; the supply of each kind of small stock moderately good. Trade was, with the primest small Beef, Mutton, and Veal, somewhat brisk, at fully, with the middling and inferior kind, as also with Lamb and Pork, dull, at barely Friday's quotations.

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EXTRACT FROM NORTHCROFT'S PARLIAMENTARY CHRONICLE.

Mr. Morison, the Hygeist, and the British Public.

WE think it a duty which we owe to the Public, to express our strongest disapprobation of the unmerited prejudice which has been attempted against this reformer of medical abuses. For a considerable period the fame of Mr. Morison has been commensurate with the utility of his medicine; and not only Europe, but America, has paid a just tribute to his skill and integrity. It had long been known that the medical profession was deficient either in skill or honesty to afford relief, and the apothecaries of England were almost becoming as mal-odorous as the physicians of France under the pen of Molière. At length Mr. Morison gave to the world a practical proof, that a Universal Medicine, composed of Vegetable ingredients, could effect cures when the most talented professors of the healing art had failed of success. Of course, he was assailed, like every other reformer in science, politics, or religion. A Galileo or a Hervey, a Russell or a Luther, could not have been attacked with more impetuosity and rancour. But Mr. Morison has outlived the abuse, and proved how forcibly are facts and good intentions against wedded prejudices and vested interests.

The foregoing remarks are called forth by the proceedings in the '*King v. Webb*,' which have been trumpeted forth to the public with an intention to prejudice the Hygeists.

In the case alluded to, a young man, who was ill of a malignant small-pox, took some of Mr. Morison's Pills. His friends' prejudices became excited. They applied to a medical man, who adopted a mode of treatment altogether different. The result was—the death of the patient. An inquest is taken, the stomach is found inflamed, and a medical man gives his opinion that death was caused by inflammation, and that the Pills of Mr. Morrison are composed of a deleterious drug—to wit, Gamboge, and the vender of the Pills, Mr. Webb, is convicted of manslaughter.

It is not our province to attack juries, judges, or apothecaries; but we cannot help observing, that a more strange verdict was never heard of. What inference could be drawn unfavourable to Mr. Morrison's Pills, when it is evident that the patient had taken other medicine, at variance with his former treatment? We forbear going into further particulars, lest we should be accused of lending ourselves to support one individual at the expense of another. Our remarks apply to the principle of the decision and its unfair deduction, as also the severity of the sentence. No human ingenuity could fix exclusive blame on one person, when two had been co-operative; and where uncertainty prevailed, surely the defendant was entitled to a lenient considera-

tion. "But, then, Mr. Morison's medicine is deleterious," says the country surgeon, "because it is composed of gamboge." This is monstrously absurd. Gamboge is known to be one of the best aperient medicines in use, and is to be found in some of the most valuable prescriptions. Besides it is not the ingredient itself, but its proportions and admixture with other medicines, that establish its value. "Four or five ingredients may be applied effectually to cure all diseases," said an eminent physician, "but the question is, how are they to be concocted?"

A pamphlet has been put forth, containing the proceedings of a trial in the Court of Common Pleas, in July last (*Purcell v. Stephens and Moat*) for a libel; and much has been attempted to the injury of the cause of Mr. Morison by it. Surely nothing can be more absurd than such an attempt: for the facts, if they apply at all, show the efficacy of Mr. Morison's medicine. The case was this.—A boy, having been held over some offensive matter, became ill in consequence. A respectable country practitioner was called in: but before a final cure was made, a lady of the name of Tomkins recommended Morison's Pills. These were administered, and the patient recovered. Now, this we call a good answer to the case of the '*King v. Webb*'; but a statement, not strictly accurate, appeared in the *Christian Advocate* newspaper, regarding the latter case, and a verdict of 500*l.* was, in consequence, obtained, under an action for a libel brought by the country apothecary against Messrs. Morison and Moat. Certain it was, however, that the boy had taken the Pills of Mr. Morison, and was ultimately cured by them, as Miss Tomkins believed.

Now, the Americans have shown a much better regard to justice, notwithstanding all the prejudices imputed to them. In the report of a trial in the interior state of New York, wherein James Morison and Thomas Moat were plaintiffs, and Moses Jacques and Jonathan B. Marsh, were defendants, how did that Court dispose of the case? The charge was for counterfeiting and selling a spurious preparation purporting to be the genuine Hygeian Vegetable Universal Medicine of the British College of Health, London. The jury, after several hours' deliberation, returned a verdict for Messrs. Morison and Moat—damages, 400 dollars.

The Americans have fewer prejudices against novelty than the English. With them it is not necessary for any thing to have existed for a length of time to be appreciated. It is sufficient if it have been tried, in many instances; and with them, one failure, even if it had stood solely on its own basis and without other interference, would not have been considered detrimental, when a thousand instances of cure had been effected.

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